

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 MCT-01 HA-05
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EUR-12 /095 W
-----081740 221506Z /46

R 221154Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6352
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6531

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS ET
SUBJ: RED TERROR BEGINS TO CLAIM SOME VICTIMS

SUMMARY: WEEK FOLLOWING DEATH OF FORMER PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN ATNAFU SAW CONTINUATION ASSOCIATION (KEBELE) LEADERS AND DEFENSE SQUAD MEMBERS, BUT DID NOT INVOLVE ANY HIGH-RANKING GOVT MEMBERS. LEVEL OF TENSION IN ADDIS HAS PROBABLY INCREASED SLIGHTLY, BUT MILITARY, POLICE AND MILITIA UNITS APPEAR TO BE ACCEPTING ATNAFU DEATH IN CALM MANNER FOR PRESENT, WITH NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF VIOLENT OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. PAST WEEK, MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPT HEAD, HAILE-YESUS WOLDE-SENBET, WAS ASSASSINATED BY "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES". MINISTRY WAS FORMERLY AND APPARENTLY STILL IS ME'I SONE STRONGHOLD, AND HAILE-YESUS ALLEGEDLY KILLED FOR HIS TIES WITH ME'I SONE. TWO LOWER RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS, CPL. TSEGAYE MEHARI AND SGT.

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SISAY ASAMINEW, WHO WERE MEMBERS OF ADDIS ABABA REVOLUTIONARY DEFENSE AND OPERATIONS OFFICE, WERE ACCIDENTALLY KILLED BY KEBELE DEFENSE SQUAD MEMBERS. TWO OFFICERS HAD GONE TO THE KEBELE TO SETTLE A DISPUTE AND WERE UNABLE TO CONVINCE MEMBERS OF THEIR IDENTITY. ARGUMENT BECAME HEATED AND KEBELE MEMBERS SHOT FIRST AND ASKED QUESTIONS LATER. ALSO KILLED PAST WEEK WAS KEBELE CHAIRMAN

TADESSE MEKURIA, WHO WAS SHOT IN FRONT OF HIS KEBELE OFFICE DURING FUNERAL PROCESSION WHICH ASSASSINS USED AS COVER. OTHER SHOOTINGS OBSERVED DAILY IN ADDIS BUT HAVE GONE UNREPORTED IN PRESS.

2. EVENING NOV 18 AS PRINCIPAL WEST GERMAN ADVISOR TO ETHIOPIAN POLICE, MAJ. VALENTIN DROVE HIS CAR HOME ON MAJOR, FAIRLY WELL-LIT STREET, FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL OTHER WEST GERMAN CARS, NERVOUS ARMY SENTRY IN FRONT OF BAR-RACKS OPENED FIRE ON MAJ. VALENTIN'S CAR, WOUNDING HIM SEVERAL TIMES IN LEG AND ARM. VALENTIN TREATED AT ETHIOPIAN POLICE HOSPITAL PROMPTLY AND GUARD WAS ARRESTED. FRG AMB. LODGED SHARP PROTEST WITH MOFA, WHICH OFFERED PROFUSE APOLOGIES. HOWEVER, INCIDENT HAS UNSETTLED WEST GERMANS (AND OTHERS) SOMEWHAT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE LEVEL OF GUNFIRE SLIGHTLY DIMINISHED OVER WEEKEND, TENSION IN ADDIS COMPOUNDED BY GOVT SANCTIONED CALLS FOR INCREASED RED TERROR HAVE LED MOST PEOPLE TO EXPECT FURTHER ASSASSINATIONS AND COUNTER-REPRISALS TO CONTINUE FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. MAY ETHOPIANS WE KNOW ARE GOING HOME EARLIER THAN EVER.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 500748
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RED TERROR BEGINS TO CLAIM SOME VICTIMS SUMMARY: WEEK FOLLOWING DEATH OF FORMER PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN ATNAFU SAW CONTINUATION ASSOCIATION (KEBELE) LEADE
TAGS: PINS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/439db114-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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